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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/619,286 07/19/00 KUPTZIN

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PM82/1003

EXAMINER

PEAVEY, E	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3626
DATE MAILED:

10/03/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/619,286

Applicant(s)

KUPTZIN ET AL

Examiner

Enoch E Peavey

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3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
 Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 and 3-4 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nickerson, US Patent No. 3,133,014. Nickerson discloses a jewelry clasp (Fig. 1) comprising first (14) and second elongated legs (11). A receptor at one end of the first leg (14) having a pair of spaced apart side walls providing a channel-shaped recess for receiving the adjacent end of the second leg (12, Fig. 1). The recess is dimensioned to seat the adjacent end of the second leg snugly (fig. 3). At least one of the side walls have a portion (19) projecting towards the other of the side walls to provide a restriction in the channel-shaped recess to reduce the width of the channel to less than the width of the second leg (Fig. 3). At least one of the sidewalls (17) flex as the second leg (11) is pressed against the projecting (19) portion to allow the second leg (11) to pass by. The second leg (11) is retained in the channel by the projecting portion (19). There is a connection means (13) connecting the other ends of the first and second legs. The legs are integrally formed with the spring coiled portion at the other end thereof (Fig. 1). The spring coil (13) portion biases the one end of the second leg (12) toward the first leg and

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receptor (Fig. 1). The flexing of the side wall (17) of the receptor permits the second leg to pass by the projecting portion thereby producing an audible clicking sound (i.e. the pin end snaps past the projection, Col 2, lines 7-10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French Doc. No. 464,585 (French 464). French 464 discloses a jewelry assembly comprising two elongated chains each having element providing passages therethrough and a clasp. The jewelry contains loops at the ends (Figs. 1 and 2). French 464 does not disclose the clasp having the structure as delineated above. Nickerson discloses such a clasp in order to provide a clasp that is easily installed in a working position and easily disconnected. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the jewelry assembly and clasp of French 464 with the clasp of Nickerson in order to provide a clasp that is easily installed in a working position and easily disconnected.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Enoch E Peavey whose telephone number is 305 1977. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 4:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on (703) 308- 3179. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 305 3597 for regular communications and 305 3597 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 1113.

Enoch E Peavey
Art Unit 3626

September 27, 2001


Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600